

## Message Text

SECRET

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67

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07

TRSE-00 OMB-01 /076 W

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R 210300Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY SUVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4930

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC

CINCPACFLT

SECDEF

S E C R E T SUVA 438

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP PFOR EAID TN UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET-TONGAN RELATIONS

REF: SUVA 434 (NOTAL)

1. HAVE JUST FINISHED 4 DAY VISIT TO TONGA WHICH FOLLOWED BY ONLY FEW HOURS THE DEPARTURE OF SOVIET AMBASSADOR WHO HAD PRESENTED CREDENTIALS AS THE SOVIET UNION'S FIRST AMBASSADOR TO TONGA. I WAS ABLE TO LEARN THAT AMBASSADOR SELYANINOV HAD TALKS WITH KING, PRIME MINISTER, ACTING SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT AND NUMEROUS OTHERS CONCERNING RUSSIA'S DESIRE TO HELP DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN PEACEFUL COOPERATION WITH "NO STRINGS ATTACHED". HE SOPKE OF RUSSIA'S DESIRE TO HELP DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO MAINTAIN THEIR INDEPENDENCE FROM "THE US AND OTHER AGGRESSORS".

2. THE AMBASSADOR THEN BECAME SPECIFIC ABOUT POSSIBILITIES OF  
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ASSISTANCE THAT THE SOVIET UNION COULD GIVE TO TONGA. HE

CITED READILY AVAILABILITY OF EXPERT TECHNICAL PEOPLE TO ASSIST AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE WILLINGNESS OF RUSSIA TO PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR YOUNG TONGANS TO UNDERTAKE STUDIES IN RUSSIA, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON PATRICE LUMUMBA UNIVERSITY. HE ALSO REQUESTED THE GOVERNMENT OF TONGA TO PROVIDE A LIST OF VARIOUS AREAS WHERE RUSSIA ASSISTANCE COULD BE PROVIDED SO THAT HE COULD THEN HAND THIS ON TO MOSCOW FOR CONSIDERATION.

3. HE THEN TURNED TO AREAS OF TRADE IN WHICH THE SOVIET UNION AND TONGA MIGHT COOPERATE. HE POINTED OUT THAT RUSSIA HAS THE LARGEST FISHING FLEET IN THE WORLD AND THAT HE COULD ARRANGE FOR VESSELS OF THE FISHING FLEET TO CALL IN TONGA WITH TINNED FISH FOR SALE ON THE LOCAL MARKET AT CHEAPER PRICES THAN TONGA PAYS FOR THIS COMMODITY ELSEWHERE. HE SUGGESTED FURTHER THAT IT MIGHT BE ARRANGED FOR THE FISHING FLEET TO PURCHASE VEGETABLES AND OTHER LOCAL PRODUCTS DURING STOPOVER IN TONGA, THEREBY PROVIDING A STEADY INCOME FOR GROWERS.

4. COMMENT: KINGDOM OF TONGA IN BACKWARD MONARCHY BADLY IN NEED OF DEVELOPMENT FUNDS. THE KING, WHO IS VERY PLEASANT AND GENTLE PERSON, WIELDS ALMOST COMPLETE POWER IN TONGA. A NUMBER OF THOSE WITH WHOM I DISCUSSED THESE DEVELOPMENTS FEAR THE KING MAY NAIVELY BELIEVE HE CAN DEAL WITH SOVIETS WITHOUT ANY DANGER EITHER TO MONARCHY OR COUNTRY. ALSO THEY ARE CERTAIN SOVIETS ARE WELL AWARE THAT VAVAU AREA COULD PROVIDE SOVIETS WITH A COMPLETELY SHELTERED DEEP WATER PORT IN MIDDLE OF PACIFIC OCEAN NOT ONLY FOR FISHING FLEET BUT NAVAL VESSELS AS WELL.

5. RECOGNITION OF THE SOVIET UNION BY TONGA; THE RECOGNITION OF BOTH THE SOVIET UNION AND THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA BY JIFI AND THE RECOGNITION OF THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA BY WESTERN SAMOA INDICATE A GROWING INTEREST IN THIS AREA BY THESE TWO NATIONS. THIS SHOULD BE MATTER OF REAL CONCERN TO THE UNITED STATES AND I AM ANXIOUS TO DISCUSS MY OBSERVATIONS CONCERNING ALL THREE OF THESE NATIONS WITH OFFICIALS BOTH IN HAWAII AND WASHINGTON UPON MY ARRIVAL. SELDEN

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## Message Attributes

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